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10/692,321

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Simon Monk

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EXAMINER

RANGREJ, SHEETAL

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/692,321	Applicant(s) MONK, SIMON	
	Examiner SHEETAL R. RANGREJ	Art Unit 3626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Prosecution History Summary

1. Claims 1 and 2 are amended.
2. Claims 1-24 are pending.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

3. The Examiner has withdrew the objections made against the drawings based on Applicant's arguments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-3, 6, 14-15, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being taught by White et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0091550).
6. As per claim 1, White teaches a method of providing an insurance product via a computing network, comprising the steps of: obtaining information from a subscriber (White: para. 95); offering an insurance product to the subscriber (White: para. 0095); issuing the insurance product to the subscriber (White: para. 0125-0126); and allowing the subscriber to access the computing after the insurance product has been issued to the subscriber, wherein the

variation being authorized, the subscriber is allowed to vary at least one term of the issued insurance product (**White: para. 0103 i.e. update functionality; para. 0122**).

7. As per claim 2, the method of claim 1 is as described. White further teaches wherein the changes the subscriber can make include an extension of the period of the subscribers insurance policy or the area covered by the subscriber's insurance policy (**White: para. 0122-0123; 0140**).

8. As per claim 3, the method of claim 2 is as described. White further teaches comprising the further step of, before issuing the insurance product to the subscriber, obtaining information from the subscriber, the information being applied to calculate the cost of the insurance product (**White: figure 4**).

9. As per claim 6, the method of claim 3 is as described. White further teaches comprising the further step of verifying the identity of the subscriber before obtaining information from the subscriber (**White: figure 2, 330**).

10. As per claim 14, White teaches a system for providing an insurance product, comprising, a client system capable of displaying information regarding a range of insurance products, the client system including appropriate means to send a subscriber request to a server system, an issuing component of the server system capable of receiving the subscriber request and issuing an insurance product to the subscriber, characterized in that, in response to a further subscriber request sent from the client system, the issuing component of the server system allows the subscriber to vary at least one term of the issued insurance product (**White figure 3**).

11. System claims 15 and 18 repeat the subject matter of claims 3 and 6, respectively, rather than a series of steps. As the underlying process has been shown to be fully disclosed by the teachings of White in the above rejection of claims 3 and 6, respectively, it is readily apparent

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that the White reference includes a system to perform the recited functions. As such, these limitations are rejected for the same reasons provided in the rejection of claims 3 and 6, respectively, and incorporated herein.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 4-5, 10, 16-17, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0091550) in view of Kleinberg (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0037265).

14. As per claim 4, the method of claim 3 is as described. White does not teach comprising the further step of applying the information obtained from the subscriber to locate a value in one of a table and a multi-dimensional array of data, the value being the purchase cost of the insurance product.

Kleinberg teaches comprising the further step of applying the information obtained from the subscriber to locate a value in one of a table and a multi-dimensional array of data, the value being the purchase cost of the insurance product (**Kleinberg: para. 0039-0040; figure 3**).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to combine the teachings of White and Kleinberg with the motivation that insurance policies respond to different customer description data and therefore help customers by providing a preferential ranking of quotes that could be used for insurance (**Kleinberg: para. 0020**).

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15. As per claim 5, the method of claim 4 is as described. White does not teach comprising the further step of utilizing a first and a second table, the first table being utilized to calculate the cost to the subscriber when the subscriber is issued with the insurance product, and the second table being utilized to calculate the cost to the subscriber when the subscriber varies the at least one term of the insurance product **(Kleinberg: para. 0039-0040; figure 3)**.

Kleinberg teaches comprising the further step of utilizing a first and a second table, the first table being utilized to calculate the cost to the subscriber when the subscriber is issued with the insurance product, and the second table being utilized to calculate the cost to the subscriber when the subscriber varies the at least one term of the insurance product **(Kleinberg: para. 0039-0040; figure 3)**.

The motivation to combine the teachings is the same as claim 4.

16. As per claim 10, the method of claim 1 is as described. White does not teach wherein the at least one term of the insurance product is the time period for which the insurance product is valid.

Kleinberg teaches wherein the at least one term of the insurance product is the time period for which the insurance product is valid **(Kleinberg: para. 0038)**. The examiner interprets that the length of trip is the same as time period for which the insurance product is valid.

The motivation to combine the teachings is the same as claim 4.

17. System claims 16-17 and 21 repeat the subject matter of claims 4-5 and 10, respectively, rather than a series of steps. As the underlying process has been shown to be fully disclosed by

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the teachings of White in view of Kleinberg in the above rejection of claims 4-5 and 10, respectively, it is readily apparent that the White in view of Kleinberg references include a system to perform the recited functions. As such, these limitations are rejected for the same reasons provided in the rejection of claims 4-5 and 10, respectively, and incorporated herein.

18. Claims 7-9 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0091550) in view of Provost et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,341,265).

19. As per claim 7, the method of claim 1 is as described. White does not teach comprising the further step of, after issuing the insurance product to the subscriber, obtaining claim information relating to a claim for compensation made by the subscriber, the claim information being applied to determine whether the subscriber is entitled to receive compensation for the claim.

Provost teaches comprising the further step of, after issuing the insurance product to the subscriber, obtaining claim information relating to a claim for compensation made by the subscriber, the claim information being applied to determine whether the subscriber is entitled to receive compensation for the claim **(Provost: figure 3 & 4B)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to combine the teachings of White and Provost with the motivation that careful review of payment requests minimizes fraud and unintentional errors and provides consistency of payment **(Provost: col. 1, 31-38)**.

20. As per claim 8, the method of claim 7 is as described. White does not teach comprising the further step of comparing the claim information to a predetermined rule set, and providing

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appropriate compensation to the subscriber if the claim information complies with the predetermined rule set.

Provost teaches comprising the further step of comparing the claim information to a predetermined rule set, and providing appropriate compensation to the subscriber if the claim information complies with the predetermined rule set (**Provost: col. 4, 7-21**).

The motivation to combine the teachings is the same as claim 7.

21. As per claim 9, the method of claim 7 is as described. White does not teach comprising the further step of communicating the claim information to an insurance underwriter for further processing.

Provost teaches comprising the further step of communicating the claim information to an insurance underwriter for further processing (**Provost: col. 1, 64 to col. 3, 13**).

The motivation to combine the teachings is the same as claim 7.

22. System claims 19-20 repeat the subject matter of claims 7 and 9, respectively, rather than a series of steps. As the underlying process has been shown to be fully disclosed by the teachings of White in view of Provost in the above rejection of claims 7 and 9, respectively, it is readily apparent that the White in view of Provost references include a system to perform the recited functions. As such, these limitations are rejected for the same reasons provided in the rejection of claims 7 and 9, respectively, and incorporated herein.

23. Claims 11-13 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0091550) in view of Mori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,070,148).

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24. As per claim 11, the method of claim 1 is as described. White does not teach wherein the at least one term of the insurance product is the intended destination of the subscriber.

Mori teaches wherein the at least one term of the insurance product is the intended destination of the subscriber (**Mori: figure 14**).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to combine the teachings of White and Mori with the motivation to provide an electronic commerce system in which information concerning a commodity or service can be provided to a user in a suitable timing (**Mori: col. 2, 44-53**).

25. As per claim 12, the method of claim 1 is as described. White does not teach wherein the at least one term of the insurance product is the total coverage value of the insurance policy.

Mori teaches wherein the at least one term of the insurance product is the total coverage value of the insurance policy (**Mori: figure 14 & 15**).

The motivation to combine the teachings is the same as claim 11.

26. As per claim 13, the method of claim 1 is as described. White does not teach wherein the insurance product is travel insurance.

Mori teaches wherein the insurance product is travel insurance (**Mori: figure 14 & 15**).

The motivation to combine the teachings is the same as claim 11.

27. System claims 22-24 repeat the subject matter of claims 11-13, respectively, rather than a series of steps. As the underlying process has been shown to be fully disclosed by the teachings of White in view of Mori in the above rejection of claims 11-13, respectively, it is readily apparent that the White in view of Mori references include a system to perform the recited

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functions. As such, these limitations are rejected for the same reasons provided in the rejection of claims 11-13, respectively, and incorporated herein.

Response to Arguments

28. Applicant's arguments filed for claims 1-24 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

29. Applicant argues that White et al., Kleinberg, Provost et al., and Mori does not teach or suggest a method for varying the issued insurance product as recited in claims 1 and 14. The Examiner disagrees and provides support for the amended limitations in the above rejections.

Response to Amendment

In response, all of the limitations which Applicant disputes as missing in the applied references, including the features newly added in the 12/21/2007 amendment, have been fully addressed by the Examiner as either being fully disclosed or obvious in view of the collective teachings of White et al., Kleinberg, Provost et al., and Mori, based on the logic and sound scientific reasoning of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, as detailed in the remarks and explanations given in the preceding sections of the present Office Action and in the prior Office Action (mailed: 08/23/2007).

Conclusion

30. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

-Mitcham (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,315) provides a method and a system for issuing an insurance based on user customization of the coverage.

31. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHEETAL R. RANGREJ whose telephone number is (571)270-1368. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Gilligan can be reached on 571-272-6770. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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SRR

/C Luke Gilligan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3626